

What is claimed is:

1. An information service providing method for providing an information service to a plurality of information terminals through a communication line, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from said information terminal through a first communication line; and sending a reply to said request to said information terminal through not only said first communication line but also a second communication line different from said first communication line depending on the content of said request.

2. The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said first communication line is the Internet line.

3. The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication line is a communication line capable of occupying communication temporarily.

4. The information service providing method according to claim 1, wherein said second communication line is a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

5. An information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, comprising:

an information terminal for sending a request

signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line; and

an information providing apparatus for sending said desired information to said information terminal through a second communication line in response to said request signal received through said first communication line.

6. The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said first communication line is the Internet line.

7. The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said second communication line is a communication line capable of occupying communication temporarily.

8. The information service providing system according to claim 5, wherein said second communication line is a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

9. An information service providing system for providing an information service through a communication line, comprising:

a first information terminal for sending a request signal for requesting desired information through a first communication line;

a second information terminal; and

an information providing apparatus for sending said desired information to said second information

terminal through a second communication line in response to said request signal received through said first communication line.

10. The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein:

    said second information terminal includes a sending part for sending said desired information received through said first communication line to said first information terminal through a short-range radio interface; and

    said first information terminal includes a receiving part for receiving said desired information sent from said second information terminal.

11. The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said first communication line is the Internet line.

12. The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said second communication line is a communication line capable of occupying communication temporarily.

13. The information service providing system according to claim 9, wherein said second communication line is a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

14. The information service providing system according to claim 10, wherein said second

information terminal is a mobile communication terminal.

15. A personal certification method for conducting personal certification on a communication line, comprising the steps of:

upon receiving a request signal for a desired request from an information terminal through a first communication line, issuing a password in response to said request signal and sending the same to said information terminal through a second communication line; and

recognizing personal certification to said desired request when said password is returned from said information terminal through said first communication line.

16. The personal certification method according to claim 15, wherein said first communication line is the Internet line.

17. The personal certification method according to claim 15, wherein said second communication line is a communication line capable of occupying communication temporarily.

18. The personal certification method according to claim 15, wherein said second communication line is a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

19. A personal certification system for conducting

personal certification over a wide area network,  
comprising:

an information server for providing desired  
information over said wide area network;

a personal certification center for governing  
data communications through a switched subscriber  
line and conducting personal certification for  
subscribers;

a first information terminal connected to said  
wide area network; and

a second information terminal capable of data  
communications with said personal certification  
center through said switched subscriber line, and  
wherein

said information server supplies a password  
request signal to said personal certification center  
when a request signal for making a desired request  
is supplied thereto from said first information  
terminal over said wide area network, and

said personal certification center generates a  
password in response to said password request signal,  
sends the same to said second information terminal  
through said switched subscriber line, and when said  
password is supplied thereto from said first  
information terminal over said wide area network,  
supplies said information server with a  
certification result signal indicating that personal

certification is granted normally.

20. The personal certification system according to claim 19, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.

21. The personal certification system according to claim 19, wherein:

    said second information terminal includes a sending part for sending said password received through said first communication line to said first information terminal through a short-range radio interface; and

    said first information terminal includes a receiving part for receiving said password sent from said second information terminal.

22. The personal certification system according to claim 19, wherein said second information terminal is a mobile communication terminal.

23. An electronic commerce method for conducting a product sale on a communication line, comprising the steps of:

    upon receiving a purchase request for a desired product from an information terminal through a first communication line, issuing a password in response to said purchase request and sending the same to said information terminal through a second communication line; and

    performing accounting on said desired product

when said password is returned from said information terminal through said first communication line.

24. The electronic commerce method according to claim 23, wherein said first communication line is the Internet line.

25. The electronic commerce method according to claim 23, wherein said second communication line is a communication line capable of occupying communication temporarily.

26. The electronic commerce method according to claim 23, wherein said second communication line is a switched subscriber line for governing telephone communications.

27. An electronic commerce system for conducting a product sale over a wide area network, comprising:

    a product information server for providing product information over said wide area network;

    an electronic settlement center for governing data communications through a switched subscriber line and performing accounting for subscribers;

    a first information terminal connected to said wide area network; and

    a second information terminal capable of data communications with said electronic settlement center through said switched subscriber line, and wherein

        said product information server supplies a

password request signal to said electronic settlement center when a product number for designating a desired product in said product information is supplied thereto from said first information terminal over said wide area network, and

    said electronic settlement center generates a password in response to said password request signal, sends the same to said second information terminal through said switched subscriber line, and when said password is supplied thereto from said first information terminal over said wide area network, supplies said product information server with a certification result signal indicating that personal certification is granted normally.

28. The electronic commerce system according to claim 27, wherein:

    said product information server, in response to said certification result signal, supplies said electronic settlement center with a product price billing signal for billing the price of said desired product designated by said product number; and

    said electronic settlement center, in response to said product price billing signal, performs accounting to transfer the price of said desired product into a bank account of the seller of said desired product and withdraw the price of said

desired product from a bank account of the owner of said second information terminal.

29. The electronic commerce system according to claim 27, wherein said wide area network is the Internet.

30. The electronic commerce system according to claim 27, wherein:

    said second information terminal includes a sending part for sending said password received through said switched subscriber line to said first information terminal through a short-range radio interface; and

    said first information terminal includes a receiving part for receiving said password sent from said second information terminal.

31. An information terminal for acquiring desired information through a communication line,

    the information terminal sending a request signal for requesting said desired information to an information providing apparatus through a first communication line and receiving said desired information sent from said information providing apparatus through a second communication line different from said first communication line.

32. An information providing apparatus for providing desired information through a communication line,

the information providing apparatus, upon receiving a request signal for requesting said desired signal through a first communication line, sending said desired information through a second communication line different from said first communication line.

33. A personal certification apparatus for conducting personal certification through a communication line, comprising:

a password generating part for generating a password when a password request signal is supplied thereto from a first information terminal over a wide area network;

a sending part for sending said password through a switched subscriber line to a second information terminal different from said first information terminal; and

a password authentication part for making password authentication based on whether or not a password, when supplied thereto from said first information terminal over said wide area network, coincides with said password generated by said password generating means.